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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CAMBODIA

IPF:(1992-96) $105 319 000

(CMB/92/002) - Rehabilitation of the National Research and Extension Network through Support to CARRDI

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	14 October 1992
Expected duration:	30 months
Proposed Executing Agency:	UNDP/OPS
Lead Government Authority:	The Supreme National Council of Cambodia
Implementing Agents:	OPS and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$792 200 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP Budget:	$792 200
Administrative and Operational Support Services (AOS)	$79 225 Agency: OPS

Project background

Rice dominates agriculture in Cambodia in terms of the number of people employed, the volume of production and the area grown (1.6 million hectares or 93 percent of the total area planted to crops). Prior 1969, the country was a net exporter of rice, with annual exports peaking at 500,000 tons in the mid 1960's. The ravages of war have dramatically reduced the area planted and the production levels declined leading to massive imports of the staple commodity. The rice shortfall could be as high as 150,000 mts for 1992. The national average rice yield in 1990 was 1.4 t./hectare which is the lowest in Asia. Wet season yields ranged from 0.7 t./hectare in 1979 to 1.3 t./hectare in 1990 whereas by contrast the dry season rice yields ranged from 1.7 t./hectare to 2.7 t./hectare registering a higher annual growth rate of 11 percent. The areas planted during the wet season have continued to increase, while irrigated dry season areas remained the same. The growing of modern varieties during the dry season has increased during the same period so that one can conclude that the yield increases registered can be attributed to improved crop management practices, the increased use of modern varieties and to land improvement.

The agricultural research and extension network in Cambodia is today totally fragmented with an extremely small cadre of trained researchers, technicians and extension workers. There is no institution in Cambodia today which has the critical mass of scientists needed to make major progress towards improving rice productivity; moreover, no single organization in Cambodia maintains an overview of national agricultural problems, ongoing research and training activities. The Ministry of Agriculture has accordingly established the "Cambodia Rice Research and Development Institute" (CARRDI) with the following tasks: (1) training of extension personnel,

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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researchers and scientists; (2) production of high quality seed materials of recommended varieties; and (3) providing the venue for conferences, meetings, workshops on rice research and development. The starting-up of CARRDI is considered the first major step towards establishing an effective rice-farming agricultural extension capacity throughout rural Cambodia. In the longer term, it will contribute strongly to raise production levels to at least match and even exceed the basic demand.

In this perspective, the present project will in the immediate term, contribute to establish the preliminary requirements of a national institute where applied research and training can be effectively conducted. The establishment of the training institute of CARRDI is thus seen as essential to provide a critical linkage between applied research findings, seed production and extension.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to increase production of rice and the productivity of rice-based farming systems through improved and expanded training opportunities for scientists, technicians, and extension workers in Cambodia.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) establish the training capacity of CARRDI whereby a training center will be constructed (936 square meter) including a cafeteria and a dormitory and training equipment will be provided as well; (b) strengthen the capacity of CARRDI to carry-out training so as to contribute to the establishment of a research and extension network for rice production, such that 1,600 researchers, technicians, extension workers at central and provincial levels will have been trained, over a period of two years, on research methodologies and technologies, communication, data processing, computer use and transfer of technology to the farmers, and also training will be provided in the fields of experiment management, rice production, technology transfer, statistics, integrated pest management, field problems of tropical rice; and (c) enhance the sustainability of the training capacity of CARRDI so that 35 Cambodian researchers and technicians will be trained as "trainers" enabling them to conduct in-country training programmes in future.

Inputs

UNDP will provide one work-month for an evaluation specialist; a subcontract with IRRI including the provision of 24 work-months of a training specialist, one work-month of a construction specialist for the construction of the training center; training equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	47 000
Subcontract	715 200
Miscellaneous	30 000
Total	792 200

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